LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying an agent effective at inhibiting short heterodimer protein (SHP) ~~or farnesoid X receptor (FXR),~~ the method comprising:

a) administering ~~an~~ a candidate agent to a cell culture that expresses (i) short heterodimer protein (SHP) ~~or (ii) farnesoid X receptor (FXR)~~ and comprises a ~~NF-κB~~ CYP7A1 promoter/detectable substance gene reporter or a CYP8B1 promoter/detectable substance gene reporter ~~and~~;

b) assaying the cell culture for the detectable substance, wherein a candidate agent that increases the detectable substance compared to control culture is an agent effective for inhibiting SHP; and

(c) selecting ~~agents that cause~~ the agent if it causes an increase in the detectable substance in the cell culture.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is a small molecule, an antisense oligonucleotide, an antibody, a recombinant SHP, ~~a recombinant FXR~~ or a combination thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a small molecule having a molecular weight of about 50 to about 1500.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detectable substance gene is firefly luciferase gene, β-galactosidase gene, secreted alkaline phosphatase gene, renilla luciferase gene or combination thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detectable substance gene is firefly luciferase gene.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell culture is an altered cell culture.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell culture is a transfected cell culture.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell culture is an infected cell culture.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the SHP, ~~FXR~~ or promoter/detectable substance gene reporter is ~~introduced to the cell culture by~~ in a vector selected from any of adenovirus, plasmid, retrovirus or combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the vector is an adenovirus.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the adenovirus is a replication-defective adenovirus.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the replication-defective adenovirus comprises an SV40 promoter, a CMV promoter, an MLP promoter or a combination thereof.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the replication-defective adenovirus comprises an SV40 promoter.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell culture is any of HELA, human hepatoblastoma cell line (HepG2), human embryonic kidney 293 cell line (HEK293), rat FTO-2B, rat McA-RH7777 or combination thereof.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~NF-κB~~ CYPA71 promoter or the CYPB81 promoter comprises inflammatory genes intracellular adhesion molecule (ICAM-I) or macrophage-colony stimulating factor (M-CSF).

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~additionally~~ the method further comprising cloning ~~NF-κB~~a CYP7A1 promoter or a CYP8B1 promoter and inserting the cloned CYP7A1 promoter or CYP8B1 ~~NF-κB~~ promoter into a vector ahead of a detectable substance gene to form ~~a~~the CYP7A1 promoter detectable substance gene reporter or a CYP8B1 ~~NF-κB~~ promoter/detectable substance gene reporter prior to ~~infecting a~~ introducing the vector into the cell culture, wherein the ~~NF-κB~~ CYP7A1 promoter or theCYP8B1 promoter comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding an inflammatory genes intracellular adhesion molecule (ICAM-I) or a nucleic acid sequence encoding a macrophage-colony stimulating factor (M-CSF).

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising administering the candidate agent to a second cell culture that expresses short heterodimer protein (SHP) and hepatocyte nuclear factor 4α (HNF4α) and comprises a CYP7A1 or CYP8B1 promoter/detectable substance gene reporter to detect an increase in the detectable substance in the second cell culture.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising:

(a) administering the agent to a second cell culture, said second cell culture comprising a ~~NF-κB~~ CYP7A1 promoter/detectable substance reporter or a CYP8B1 promoter/detectable substance gene reporter and not expressing SHP ~~or FXR~~; ~~and~~

(b) assaying the second cell culture for the detectable substance; and

c) selecting ~~for agents~~ the agent if it causes ~~that cause~~ an increase in the detectable substance in the first cell culture and ~~cause~~ causes no increase in the detectable substance in the second cell culture following administration of the agent.

21-67. (Canceled)